some of the older settled taluks, the land records are already much out of date. An enquiry will soon be made in regard to this.

**7. Work of Peishkars and Tahsildars.**—Government are unable to speak of the work of these officers with satisfaction. One of the most important functions of the permanent land revenue staff is the prompt disposal of applications for waste lands, otherwise called puduvals. In the interests of the public revenue, as well as in the interests of the ryots themselves, it is very necessary that these puduval cases should not be delayed. It is however found that, out of 13,131 cases of applications for registry of puduvals, the Land Revenue Department disposed of only 4,552, in other words, the out-turn of work was about a third of the total volume to be done. Again, another very important function of the normal land revenue staff is to effect transfers of registry of revenue holdings, so that our revenue records may tally as far as possible with the actual ownership and enjoyment of lands. Out of 27,713 applications for transfers of registry for disposal, the revenue staff disposed of 17,121 cases and ended the year with a balance of 10,592. In extenuation of these heavy arrears, the plea has been put forward by more than one Peishkar that the subordinate revenue staff is under-manned and ill-paid and that it is therefore unable to cope with the volume of work coming before it. This plea will soon be examined. Steps will be taken to re-organize the taluk and village staff wherever such re-organization may appear necessary and steps will also be taken to enforce an adequate out-turn of work from all officers in the Revenue Department.

**8. Legislation.**—Four Regulations were passed during the year, *viz.*, the Extradition Regulation, the Charitable Endowments Regulation, the Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Regulation and the Regulation to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. Of the above four, the first was passed by His Highness the Maha Raja direct, the other three being passed in due course by the Legislative Council and assented to by His Highness.

**9. Police.**—There was no change worth mentioning either in the constitution or in the work of the Police Department during the year. The Superintendent of Police has brought to notice that no material improvement in the work of his department can be effected unless the pay of the subordinate ranks is improved. Government observe that, out of 46 Police Inspectors, 20 draw salaries not exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem and that, out of 1,498 constables, more than half draw only Rs. 6 per mensem. The necessity for a revision of the scale of pay of the subordinate ranks of the Police force will be borne in mind.

**10. The Administration of Justice.**—There was nothing noteworthy in the administration of criminal justice during the year, but there was a large increase of original civil suits. The number of these filed during the year rose from 44,512 in 1081 to 48,981 in 1082. Since the year 1070, the original civil litigation of the State has risen by over 63 per cent., the advance being shared by all Courts. Though the disposal of original civil suits showed a marked increase during the year, it did not keep pace with the increased volume of work, the result being that the arrears rose from 10,836 on the last day of 1031 to 12,540 on the last day of 1082. Again, in regard to appeals, the arrears have risen considerably during the last four

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years—from 1,216 on the last day of 1079 to 2,147 on the last day of 1082. In view to the increased volume of work, Government appointed an additional Judge for the Quilon Court as a temporary measure for one year, located permanently two itinerant Munsiffs' Courts—one at Chengannur and one at Quilon, appointed a separate Magistrate-Munsiff at Shencottah, divesting the local Tahsildar of his civil and magisterial powers and sanctioned a Magistrate-Munsiff for Kanjirapalli to take the place of the local Magistrate. It remains to be seen how far these changes will be found adequate to reduce the arrears of civil litigation.

**11. Jails.**— During the latter half of the year, the mark and remission system was brought into operation in the Central Prison, Trivandrum, and 35 prisoners were released in consequence. The conduct of the convicts generally is reported to have improved considerably as a result of the introduction of this measure.

**12. Registration.**— The number of registration offices continued the same, *viz.*, 51. There was a slight increase in the number of documents presented for registration.

The receipts and disbursements of the department were Rs. 3,40,092 and Rs. 1,05,954 respectively, thus giving a profit of Rs. 2,34,138 to Government, as against Rs. 2,21,667 in the previous year.

Proposals are under consideration for simplifying the process of registration, for dispensing with duplicate copies of documents presented for registration and for increasing the number of registry offices.

**13. Forests.**— The total area of reserved forests rose from 2,266 square miles to 2,305 square miles. A special officer was employed during the greater part of the year on forest settlement work; but towards the close of the year, this work was transferred to the normal revenue staff. The aggregate receipts and disbursements of the Forest Department amounted to Rs. 6,43,994 and Rs. 4,92,382 respectively, thus giving a net revenue of Rs. 1,51,612, as against a net revenue of Rs. 1,67,000 in 1081. The entire question of the administration of the forest revenue is now engaging the anxious consideration of Government.

**14. Public Works.**— The outlay on public works was, as usual, incurred partly through the agency of the Chief Engineer's Department and partly through the agency of the Maramat Department, which latter worked under the orders of the Division Peishkars. The total outlay on public works during the year was a little over 18¼ lakhs of rupees, out of which about 15¾ lakhs was spent by the Chief Engineer and about 2½ lakhs by the Maramat Department. It has been the policy of Government gradually to curtail the operations of the Maramat Department and I may mention that, whereas in 1076 the Chief Engineer spent 78 per cent. and the Maramat Department 22 per cent. of the total outlay, in 1082 the percentages were 86 and 14 respectively. At present, the operations of the Maramat Department are confined to the up-keep of palaces and religious and charitable institutions.

Out of the 15¾ lakhs spent by the Chief Engineer, the outlay on the Kodayar works was a little over 3½ lakhs. The expenditure so far incurred on the Kodayar Project was nearly 45 lakhs The latest information before Government is to the effect that it will take another 15 lakhs or so to complete the works. It is anticipated that we shall get a return of about 3 per cent. on the total outlay. I need

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